



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan  
District of Massachusetts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **DANVERS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO THREATENING IRANIAN-AMERICAN CITIZEN**

Boston.....A Danvers man pled guilty today in federal court to sending a threatening letter to a local Iranian-American citizen.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan and Warren T. Bamford, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation New England Field Division announced that **THOMAS F. LAWLOR**, 49, of Danvers, MA, pled guilty to mailing a letter to an Iranian-American citizen which contained threats to injure him and was also laced with ethnic and religious slurs.

At the change of plea hearing, the prosecutor said that **LAWLOR** had a previous relationship with the victim related to a construction project. After **LAWLOR** was no longer involved in the project, on November 8, 2005, he composed and mailed a letter to the victim, using an assumed name, and stating, in part:

“I want a cash payment of \$20,000 or I’m going to cut your (*EXPLETIVE*) off and stick them in your mouth you fat bald headed little muslim (*EXPLETIVE*).

I have followed you and know what you drive and where you live you (*EXPLETIVE*) sand (*EXPLETIVE*).

You think you can come into my neighborhood and (*EXPLETIVE*) up my property you have made a bad mistake. Your not back in the Iranian (*EXPLETIVE*) that you came from you (*EXPLETIVE*).

I want the money in cash with in a week or you are going to get a visit at home late at night from some nasty people who hate (*EXPLETIVE*) muslim scum bags.”

Sentencing is set for September 5, 2007. **LAWLOR** faces a maximum punishment of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated jointly by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Boston Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney S. Theodore Merritt of the Public Corruption and Special Prosecutions Unit.

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